WAR PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT—COST OF PETROL SUPPLIED TO

45. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: Will Government kindly state what expenditure has been incurred on account of the cost of petrol by the War Publicity Department?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The expenditure incurred till the end of June 1942 on account of the cost of petrol supplied to the War Publicity Department comes to Rs. 1,079—4—0.

QUANTITY OF RICE PURCHASED AND SOLD—INFORMATION REGARDING

46. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: Will Government be pleased to state the price of the total quantity of rice purchased from the merchants of Mattancheri, and the total stock of the same sold by the thirty-first day of Edavam 1117, and also the price realised for the same?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Price of the total quantity of rice purchased—Rs. 496,129—4—0.

Total stock sold by 31st Edavam 1117—23,750 bags.

Price realised—Rs. 286,222—10—0.

CYCLONE RELIEF APPLICATIONS FROM PATIYAM VILLAGE—PARTICULARS REGARDING

47. Mr. K. R. Achyutan *(Ezhuvas-Trichur)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of applications received from the inhabitants of Patiyam village in the Trichur Taluk for Cyclone Relief Agricultural Loans;

(*b*) the number of agricultural loans given to the said applicants up to the end of Edavam 1117;

(*c*) if no loan was given to any of the said applicants, the reasons for the same?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*:

(*a*) 55.

(*b*) 2.

(*c*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*b*).

MULLASSERI CANAL—IMPROVEMENT OF

48. Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin-Christians-Cranganur)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) when was the Mullasseri canal deepened and improved;

(*b*) what was the object aimed at when the improvements were effected;

(*c*) whether it was not to drain out the excess of rain water in the paddy fields in the neighbourhood that these improvements to the canal were done;

(*d*) what was the total amount spent on the canal till now;

(*e*) does Government contemplate to fill up the canal and if so what arrangement will be done to drain out the excess rain water that accumulates in the paddy fields;

(*f*) were there not complaints from the owners of paddy fields near by and around that the crops are failing for want of adequate facilities to drain out the excess water in the rainy season;

(*g*) what is the probable amount Government may have to spend for filling up the whole canal?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*:

(*a*) The improvement works to the canal were completed in 1112.

(*b*) Drainage of the flood water in the Karithala padam lying to the east of the Ernakulam town.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Rs. 6,819—13—0 for the improvement works and Rs. 36 in 1114, Rs. 139 in 1115, Rs. 37 in 1116, and Rs. 33 in 1117 for its maintenance.

(*e*) There is a proposal to fill up a small portion of the canal from the Chittur road to the east up to the first foot bridge and to provide a masonry drain. Consequent on the drainage facilities subsequently afforded by the widening of the bridges on the Hill Palace and Edappilli roads the drainage of the lands have been considerably improved.

(*f*) It was on the complaints of the owners of paddy fields nearby that the improvements to the canal were carried out. But, since the completion of improvement works, many changes have taken place in the drainage features of the area. Widening of the bridges on the Hill Palace and Edappilli roads considerably helped the drainage of the lands and the level of water in the fields during the monsoons is not high.

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